

If only it were a prank...

Numismagram Newsletter #39 (IV/2020)



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“Where there’s a will, there’s a way!”

Since our last newsletter, the situation involving the global pandemic of the novel coronavirus, COVID-19, has, quite obviously, reached epic proportions—so much so that our way of life has, and for the foreseeable future, been altered in a way that nobody could have grasped merely a few weeks ago. In times so uncertain, it is easy to wonder how exactly we operate during and after this whole ordeal. Similarly, the disruption to many of our usual forms of entertainment, such as the entire world of sports, has left a void where typically an escape can be found. Numismatics, however, is always there, providing a means to hunt online—while remaining perfectly socially distant—for that piece to your collection for which you’ve been seeking, or which you hadn’t even known you’d needed.

While a major theme in this month’s upload relates to World War I—a *time just over a century ago when much of the world was faced with not one, but two global issues, the other being the ensuing 1918 flu (which plagued parts of the world for three years)*—this topic actually serves as a reminder of where we collectively have been, and how we eventually recovered. There are powerful images, such as this zinc medal portraying the Four Horseman of the Apocalypse inciting chaos literally upon the globe...



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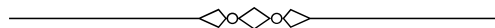
...or this zinc medal featuring soldiers approaching the front lines ready to engage the enemy in battle...



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In our current crisis, it is easy to see the combatants not clad in *pickelhauben* (those spiked German helmets), but as doctors and nurses clad in face masks —*if they are fortunate enough to have them supplied.*

Nevertheless, one must remember that these crises, both war and pandemic, were overcome, and that the 20th century eventually moved into the roaring '20's. Though somewhat delayed, we can remain hopeful that these '20's will soon be just as roaring...*though admittedly with less prohibition.*

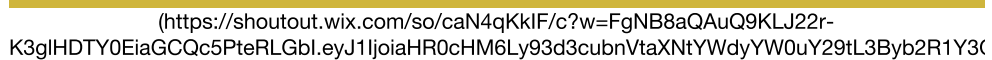


Moving to more of a tongue-in-cheek view of current events, it would certainly be preferable if one of the symptoms were, for example, vomiting coins, as in this satirical Belgian medal from the mid-19th century...



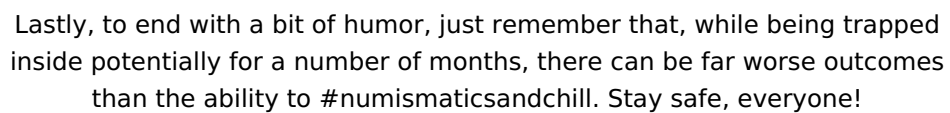
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...meanwhile, let's hope that you're not so tired of pasta and rice that you've raided your pantry, only to find a single bone on which you've been gnawing for the past three days as you remain chained to your living room...



A collection of various medals and coins. The central piece is a large, rectangular bronze medal depicting a bison standing on a rocky base. Surrounding this central medal are several smaller circular medals and coins. To the left, there is a large circular silver medal showing two figures in traditional attire, one holding a long staff or pole. Below it is a smaller circular coin with a profile of a man and the text "JOHANNES PONTIFEX MAXIMUS". To the right of the central medal is a large circular silver medal depicting a group of people in traditional attire, with the text "GUMBINNEN TANNENBEI MASURISCHE GORL RADY". Below this is a smaller circular coin with a profile of a man and the text "JOHANNES PONTIFEX MAXIMUS". Other smaller circular medals and coins are scattered around the central piece, each with different designs and inscriptions.

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COVID-19 got you stuck inside?

#numismaticsandchill



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